

Board Walk Plus ~ July 2026

Hello Friends!

It's officially summer – and the weather these first days of July will prove it if there was any doubt! As we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of our Independence Day, we are reminded of the tremendous work and foresight of our ancestors as they undertook to provide us with the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness we all have the privilege to enjoy. I remember the bicentennial, not giving a thought to what I would be doing or where I would be fifty years in the future. I was a college student with not much else to worry about in 1976. That 50 years went by too quickly!

June was another busy month at church. We celebrated of our Sunday School program and youth, recognized our graduating senior, Sam W., and some of us got to see the Big Boy train when it chugged into town. Two Trustees were also installed: Mike Knopf and Jen Kellogg.

I continue to welcome photos and tidbits to include in this newsletter. It's about you and for you so please feel free to submit anything you would like to share. You may text or call me: 607-661-2154 or send me an email:

cindy.fitzwater@gmail.com if you have something you'd like to see included. Thank you

Remember: "You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Faithfully yours,
Cindy Fitzwater

PS: If you DO NOT want me to include your image in the newsletter (or that of someone in your family), please let me know. I identify our youth with first name and last initial only.



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Upcoming Events:

See calendar on page 10.

***Next newsletter deadline
is Friday July 29th!**

The Pastor's Pathway...

June was a very fun month. I had the joy of officiating a committal service for Bob and Sue Stevens who were married in, and once belonged to our church before moving out to Santa Barbara, California. (On the next page) are some photos of them as well as an old newspaper article about Bob signing to make Shawmut Industrial Park official (an article written by our own Gayle Gebhard). There is also an old advertisement for the former Murray Stevens Men's and Boy's Clothing Store. It was great to learn more about our church and community history in addition to meeting and conversing with this wonderful family.

As many of you know, the Big Boy steam engine stopped by at the Erie Depot. That was a moment to remember with Hornell full of locals and visitors to see this massive train. Here is one of so many pictures from the big day.

Also, the Group for Racial and Religious Healing held its annual Juneteenth Celebration. We had good food, fellowship, and karaoke. There was a rumor going around that Pastors Bruce and Ted were caught singing an Elvis song together. Pay no attention to that. We have pictures for that too.

In other news, we will have a table set up at Veterans Memorial Park as we celebrate our 250th Independence Day. We will also have a table set up on July 30th and August 27th for Thursdays at the Square (Union Square Park). For all events, we will offer water, soda pop, and baked cookies for sale with proceeds going toward UPC missions, in addition to making connections with the wider community.

Our upcoming book study is Nadia-Bolz Weber's **Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People**. Class times TBD by the group. Let Pastor Ted or Jennifer Kellogg know if you are interested. Suggested donation for a book is \$10.

As you may know, we celebrated Sam graduating high school. Please pray for the family as Jenny and I take a step closer to becoming empty nesters.

Yours in Faith,
Pastor Ted



Union Pacific Big Boy #4014 steam engine during its historic stop in Hornell!



Memories of Murray Stevens clothing store and the Stevens family, including Bob & Sue Stevens. Photos provided by Pastor Ted, from the Stevens family.



Article about Shawmut park by Gayle Gebhard, featuring Bob Stevens of the Hornell IDA.





SPOTLIGHT: Church Family of the Month: Jan and Larry Casey

Jan and Larry Casey are one of our newer UPC church families. They began worshipping at UPC in March of 2025 and formally became members in September. We spent some enjoyable time together to bring you their story:

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, as a boy Larry's family moved to Omaha, Nebraska. Jan grew up about 90 miles away in the small town of Dorchester, Nebraska. They met in the state capital, Lincoln, in 1970 when Larry was a college student and Jan was working in the banking industry. Larry majored in Broadcast Journalism, they married in 1972 and he became News Director at a radio station in Fremont, NE, a city of 25,000. Larry spoke fondly of covering many important community stories during this time, the most significant a 1976 hotel explosion and fire in Fremont that killed 21 individuals. Larry heard the explosion, rushed to the scene and provided on-the-spot live reporting that helped bring calm to the city, and was picked up by other Midwest news markets.



Larry & Jan Casey

After some years and a growing family of three children, Larry pursued a career change and became a financial aid director at Bellevue College in suburban Omaha. Once Larry earned his MA in Public Administration, he and Jan moved the family to Clifton Park, NY, after he accepted a position as College Registrar at Russell Sage College in nearby Troy. Jan then worked in the Russell Sage Admissions office. By 1995 the Casey's were in Alfred, where Larry worked as College Registrar at Alfred University until his retirement.

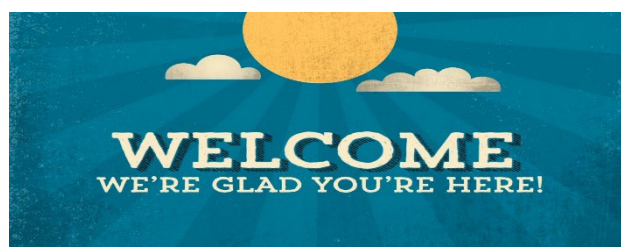
The Casey's are proud parents of three children, Colin who lives in Spring Lake, Michigan with his wife; Jessica, who with her husband resides in Windham, New Hampshire, and Christine who lives in Webster with her husband. Jan and Larry are blessed to have four grandchildren ages 7 to 14.

The Casey's enjoy gardening and appreciating the rural beauty around their country home outside Alfred. Jan enjoys walks, Larry is a woodworker.

We talked about their impressions of UPC and both happily observed the friendliness of members, and their outreach to make the Casey's feel welcomed and at home. Jan appreciates the strong preaching skills and messages of Pastor Ted, and Larry emphasized his pleasure to be part of a church that is "plainly, truly Christ-centered."

We are so pleased to have them as members of UPC, and also serving on Session (Larry) and Deacons (Jan). Larry is part of the liturgist rotation and offers his talents with the church website. We are grateful to have you as part of our United Presbyterian Church family.

Submitted by Lisa Sanford



June Board Walk

Session:

The Session met for our regular monthly meeting in June. We approved a new Funeral Policy which will be included in our Manual of Operations and shared with area funeral directors. In addition to regular business, we filled committee vacancies and discussed plans for an upcoming Session Retreat. This year's retreat will be August 22nd at the Mount Saviour Monastery in Pine City. We will have an opportunity to interact with the monks.



Mount Saviour Monastery

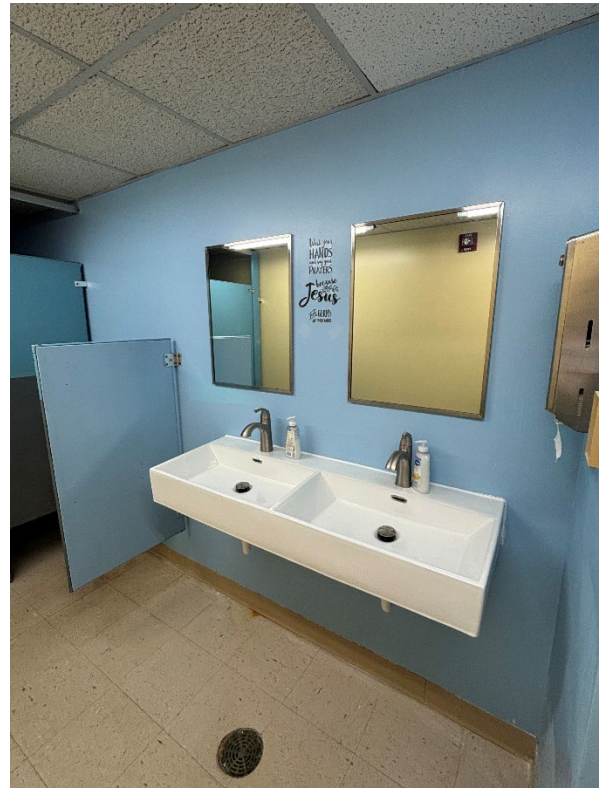
Deacons:

The Deacons met in June, then began a brief hiatus in July and August when they will not meet. Even though they are not getting together, their good work goes on! Calls, cards and visits continue for our shut-ins. If you know someone in need, or of a situation where a call or a card could be of comfort, please contact one of the Deacons. Communion set-up for June was Lynn W and Kathy B. In July, Ellen M and Kathy K will be preparing communion. Dime-a-Day collection for June was \$213.44. The Salvation Army has asked that in addition to diapers, feminine hygiene products are also requested for our Fill-the-Cart mission.

Submitted by Deb Mammosser

Trustees:

Trustees have been busy working on and planning several projects. The sink in the men's room was recently replaced – a nice upgrade. It's been told that the Ladies Room will soon have an identical one. Thank you, Trustees!



Men's room update – coming soon to a Ladies Room near you!



COMMITTEE CORNER

Stonework Committee:

This is a reminder that we will unveil and dedicate the memorial tree for the Stonework Project towards the end of the worship service on **Sunday, 12 July 2026**. Please plan on being there. Light refreshments will be provided.

Parish Life:

Parish Life has been hosting **Game Night** the fourth Saturday of each month. We are going to pause this event for the summer, and plan to resume in September.



Jo & Carol H playing canasta at our June game night. They found they had a mutual love of the game and plan to continue meeting to play!

Christian Ed Committee:

On Sunday Jun 14th we celebrated Youth Sunday. Megan Haley, Sunday School teacher, gave certificates of participation to each of our youth. Samantha Warner, our graduating senior this year was also given a financial gift from the church. Jo & Linda C enlisted the help of our youth and congregation to recognize and thank Megan for all she does for our Sunday School program. Classes will resume in September.



Letchworth High School graduate, Samantha W, being recognized on Youth Sunday by Jo & Megan.

Our Sunday School kids!



May Presbytery Meeting: a Scavenger Hunt for Mission!

In May, Pastor Ted, Lisa S and I attended the Presbytery meeting at Camp Whitman. The event included a “scavenger hunt” – churches throughout the presbytery displayed examples of the mission work they are doing. The committee provided us with a list of things to find while we were perusing the various tables. It’s amazing the wonderful work being done by all of us – locally, nationally, and internationally. Look for additional information from this day on the bulletin board by the office – sometime soon! By Cindy Fitzwater

News and Views from UPC:

Eugene Baker contacted me and said he communicates regularly – via text – with Bob Gaffney. He provided us with two photos Bob sent him recently. One is an event Bob attended or participated in – we’re not sure. And the other is of Bob and his son Sean.

And while Bob was unable to attend his beautiful granddaughter’s wedding, his “Flat Stanley” version had a great time! (Photo courtesy of Facebook)

Bob Gaffney recent event – did you watch or were you playing, Bob?



Bob & his son, Sean – looking good, fellas!

“Bob Gaffney” with newlyweds Megan & John on their wedding day



Big Boy train photo by Pastor Ted

Youth Sunday



Recent Graduates:

Salli Mehlenbacher shared that her granddaughter and grandson both graduated from high school in June.



Salli's grandson Sam who graduated from Hornell High School.



Sam at her graduation



Salli M. and her oldest granddaughter at her high school graduation. She is taking a year off then plans to attend college to become a teacher for children with special needs.

From Jen K: We are so proud of Lylah and all she accomplished this year. She happily moves on to kindergarten. Lylah is the daughter of Ryan and Haley Kellogg



July Birthdays:



1 – Kathy Knopf
6 – Jeremy Holbrook
8 – Salli Mehlenbacher
11 – Diane Griffin
17 – Barb Berry
17 - Andrew Utz
21 – Jack Burdich
22 – Aubrey Wilkins
27 – Sam Stonerock
28 – Lee Richeson
29 – Megan Haley
30 – Samuel Roberts
31 – Bill Mammosser

July Anniversaries:

9 – Ryan & Haley Kellogg
12 – Michell Wilson & Joe Tucker
22 – Dottie & Howie Nisbet
25 – Jeremy & Kat Holbrook
27 – Lee & Jon Richeson
29 – Deanna & Donald Cook



Congratulations to Margo Kellogg on her very first dance recital! We are so proud of you! Margo is the daughter of Zach and Bre Kellogg.

Here's Tika – the little Morkie – who comes to church
“almost” every Sunday – enjoying Coffee
Hour/Fellowship time with “sister” Mallory Berry



Did you know?

Our church library has lots of resources to assist you in preparing a Children's Message? Cindy Banker has a lot of books with great short, meaningful children's messages. In addition, Linda Varner has found lots of information online to assist as well. A quick Google search is all you need.

I know you are just itching to get up and give a message! If this is you, please contact me to arrange a date! Thank you!



Hornell Community Garden:

As you can see, the community garden at the YMCA is starting to take shape and green up! UPC is one of the sponsors of this local mission program and has been for several years. This week we will be picking yellow squash and garlic as we continue our mission of providing fresh produce to area food pantries and to the Sunday Meal program.

Would you have some time to help, at your convenience? We can always use a gentle weeding, compost turnover, picking or taking the produce to one of the local pantries once harvested. It can be a matter of less than 30 minutes to add health and nutrition to a local friend's plate! Please consider, and reach out to Lisa Sanford by text or phone at 607-661-0849 if you can help.

We have a BIG mission, but a barebones staff of volunteers. Thank you!



Community garden beds at the Hornell YMCA



JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Happy Birthday America! 
5 Communion & Fellowship Hour	6	7 No Deacons meeting	8	9	10	11
12 Stonework Dedication	13	14 Trustees 7 PM	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Session 6 PM	22	23	24	25
26 Dime-A-Day collection	27	28	29	30	31	

Church Contacts:

ADDRESS: 150 Main St., Hornell, New York 14843

PASTOR: Rev. Ted Warner - pastorted@presbyhornell.org/585-322-3112

CLERK OF SESSION: Jame Varner - 607-324-0755

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Jennifer Kellogg - secretary@presbyhornell.org

CHURCH OFFICE: 607-324-0755

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